

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 IGA-02 AGRE-00
IO-13 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 ARA-06 EA-07
EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
OMB-01 /146 W

-----201344Z 100427 /45

R 200801Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0364

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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ROME PASS SUBSTANCE FODAG

DAKAR FOR FFPO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PU

SUBJECT: GUINEA-BISSAU REQUEST FOR PL-480 FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR 1977

REF: BISSAU 0115

1. AS PREDICTED REFTTEL, GOGB HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED USG INITIATE AN EMERGENCY FFP PROGRAM THIS YEAR IN GUINEA-BISSAU. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH FFPO MAHER, CDO HUDDLESTON AND CHARGE WITH COMMISSIONER OF DEV. VASCO CABRAL WEEK OF MAY 9, CABRAL AD-DRESSED LETTER TO EMBASSY ON MAY 16 REQUESTING FOLLOWING COMMODITIES ON EMERGENCY BASIS:

RICE 5,000 MTS
CORN 10,000 MTS
CORN FLOUR 500 MTS
VEG. OIL 500 MTS

U.S. REPS IN ABOVE MENTIONED CONVERSATION STRESSED NECESSITY THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUEST BE ACCOMPANIED BY DETAILED STATISTICS ON PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, STOCKS, IMPORT HISTORY, ETC., BUT PROMISED RESPONSE HAS NOT YET MATERIALIZED.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL WFP REPRESENTATIVE, FAO FSAS INVESTIGATING TEAM AND SIDA, AND BASED ON OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS EMBASSY IS CONVINCED RICE SHORTAGE IS REAL AND THAT COUNTRY

WILL SOON BE FACING SERIOUS SHORTAGE. GOGB ESTIMATE OF 18-20,000 TON SHORTAGE IN RICE DEFICIT AREAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY DONORS. GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PURCHASE AND TRANSPORT LOCAL RICE FROM SURPLUS AREA IN SOUTH PROBABLY DOES NOT EXCEED 6,000 TONS LEAVING CURRENT DEFICIT TO BE MADE UP OF 12-14,000 TONS.

3. FOLLOWING DONATIONS OF RICE HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR 1977: SWEDEN 7,000 MTS; NORWAY 2,000 MTS; FRG 1,000 MTS; AND WFP 186 MTS. EEC RICE COMMITMENTS FOR 1976 WHICH HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED AMOUNT TO 969 MTS. TOTAL 11,155 MTS. 2,600 TONS OF SWEDISH RICE HAS ALREADY ARRIVED AND ANOTHER 4,400 TONS WHICH IS EXPECTED MOMENTARILY WILL LAST TWO MONTHS AT END OF WHICH NO ARRIVALS HAVE YET BEEN SCHEDULED.

4. BREAD IS USED IN BISSAU AS RICE SUBSTITUTE WHEN RICE IS IN SHORTAGE. 5,656 MTS OF WHEAT FLOUR HAVE BEEN PROMISED FOR 1977 BY FRANCE (3,000); EEC (1656); AND FRG (1,000).

5. GIVEN ALL ABOVE, WHILE THERE IS CERTAINLY A SHORTAGE AND THE UNCERTAIN TIMING OF ARRIVALS OF DONATED RICE MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS GAPS IN SUPPLY, GOGB REQUEST TO USG FOR 5,000 MTS. RICE SEEMS INFLATED.

6. NO ONE HAS ANY CLUE AS TO CORN SITUATION. CORN AND SORGHUM ARE STAPLES OF PEOPLES IN EAST-CENTRAL AND EASTERN PARTS OF GUINEA-BISSAU. THERE HAS BEEN INSECT DAMAGE TO THIS YEAR'S CROP. WFP PROVIDED SMALL AMOUNT OF CORN IN 1976 SOME OF WHICH WAS USED AS ANIMAL FODDER. WFP REP. BELIEVES IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THIS COULD HAPPEN AGAIN AND RECOMMENDS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALBEIT WITH NO STATISTICS TO BACK HIM UP, THAT WE NOT GIVE MORE THAN 2,500 TONS.

7. PART OF REASON FOR SHORTAGE OF VEG OIL IS THAT PEANUT PROCESSING PLANTS HAVE BEEN EITHER WORKING FULL STEAM TO PROCESS EXPORTS BADLY NEEDED FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE OR HAVE BEEN BROKEN DOWN. AGAIN THERE ARE AS YET NO DATA ON PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, ETC.

8. NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR REQUESTS FOR 500 MTS CORN MEAL. WFP REP, CITING LACK OF PROPER STORAGE FACILITIES, RECOMMENDS AGAINST SUPPLYING THIS COMMODITY.

9. IN SPITE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS WITH REQUEST, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE GOGB REQUEST. IT IS NOT SURPRISING WE ARE THE LAST DONOR TO BE CONTACTED IN VIEW OF SUSPICION WITH WHICH USG STILL REGARDED BY MANY GUINEANS. DURING COURSE OF LAST YEAR NEWLY CREATED EMBASSY AND FLEDGLING REGULAR AID PROGRAM HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN DISPELLING THIS

SUSPICION. ALTHOUGH OTHER WESTERN DONORS HAVE RESPONDED TO GOGB PLEAS, PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTER OF GUINEA-BISSAU, USSR, HAS RESPONDED ONLY WITH OFFER TO SELL WHEAT FOR DOLLARS. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO GOGB THAT REQUEST IS LARGE, BACK-UP STATISTICS ARE LACKING AND THAT IT UNLIKELY WE CAN FULLY ACCOMMODATE THEIR NEEDS. NONETHELESS, IN KEEPING WITH ADMINISTRATION POLICY AS OUTLINED BY UN AMBASSADOR YOUNG AT ABIDJAN COM CONFERENCE, A PL-480 PROGRAM WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE QUOTE OPENING UNQUOTE TO ONE OF ARICA'S MORE RADICAL STATES. HOWEVER, GUINEA-BISSAU SITUATION CANNOT BE VIEWED SEPARATELY FROM CAPE VERDE. BOTH COUNTRIES ARE GOVERNED BY THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AND THEIR LEADERS ARE CONSTANTLY IN TOUCH. CABRAL AND OTHERS HAVE REFERRED TO CAPE VERDEAN PL-480 PROGRAM IN REQUESTING ONE FOR GUINEA-BISSAU AND HAVE SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR SAME CONDITIONS AS CAPE VERDE, I.E. TITLE II, SECTION 206, WHICH WOULD BE USED IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. IT WOULD SEEM INCONGRUOUS FOR USG TO BE MORE GENEROUS OR EVEN EQUALLY GENEROUS WITH GUINEA-BISSAU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN CAPE VERDE IN VIEW OF CAPE VERDE'S LESS RADICAL APPROACH TO ECONOMIC REORGANIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND IN VIEW THE TWO COUNTRY'S DIFFERING POLICIES ON SOVIET USE OF THEIR MILITARY FACILITIES. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT CAPE VERDE'S NEEDS STEM FROM A NATURAL CALAMITY OVER WHICH GOCV HAD NO CONTROL WHILE GUINEA-BISSAU SHORTAGES ARE, AT LEAST IN PART, RESULTANT FROM GOVERNMENT INABILITY TO MOVE RICE FROM SURPLUS TO DEFICIT AREAS AND FROM GENERAL GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCY AND DISORGANIZATION. OUR RESPONSE TO GUINEA-BISSAU MUST ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IMINENTLY EXPECTED REQUEST FROM CAPE VERDE FOR MORE CORN FOR THIS YEAR, I.E. HOW CAN WE SAY NO TO CAPE VERDE AND YES TO GUINEA-BISSAU WHEN DEALING WITH THE SAME COMMODITY ON THE SAME TERMS?

1. FOR ALL ABOVE REASONS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS USG CONSIDER FAVORABLE RESPONSE IF WE GET THE NECESSARY BACK-UP DATA. IT IS THE EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT WE SHOULD NOT PROVIDE MORE THAN 1,500 MTS OF RICE AND THAT WHILE OUR DECISION ON CORN WILL DEPEND ON FURTHER ANALYSIS WE SHOULD NOT GO HIGHER THAN 2,500 TONS OF CORN. THE EMBASSY STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF THE CORN (AT LEAST 25 PERCENT) AND PERHAPS SOME OF THE RICE SHOULD BE EARMARKED FOR GREATER DISTRIBUTION.

12. FYI: FFPO MAHER WILL BE ARRIVING IN BISSAU MAY 23 TO STUDY REQUEST. COPY OF REQUEST BEING POUCHED FFP WASHINGTON. CURRAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BISSAU00267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770180-0455
Format: TEL
From: BISSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770537/aaaabfwr.tel
Line Count: 165
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f73a408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BISSAU 115
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2443939
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUINEA-BISSAU REQUEST FOR PL-480 FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR 1977
TAGS: EAID, PU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f73a408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009